

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 31 to line 34, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In one embodiment, the user of host computer system 102 is given a set of choices on the protective action to be taken in TAKE PROTECTIVE ACTION OPERATION OPERATION 224 (or whether no protective action is to be taken).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 18 to line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 5 is a diagram of a hooked operating system function call flow 500 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Referring now to FIGS. 2 and 5 together, a hook module 506 is used to hook calls to a critical OS function 508.

In one embodiment, HOOK CRITICAL OS FUNCTION(S) OPERATION 206 is implemented using hook module 506, which is part of Return-to-LIBC attack detection application 106 (FIG. 1).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 26 to page 31, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In view of this disclosure, the Return-to-LIBC attack detection functionality in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention can be implemented in a wide variety of computer system configurations. In addition, the Return-to-LIBC attack detection functionality could be stored as different modules in memories of different devices. For example, Return-to-LIBC attack detection application 106 could initially be stored in server system 130, and then as necessary, a portion of Return-to-LIBC attack detection application 106 could be transferred to host computer system 102 and executed on host computer system 102. Consequently, part of the Return-to-LIBC attack detection functionality would be executed on processor 134 of server system 130, and another part would be executed on processor 108

of host computer system 102. In view of this disclosure, those of skill in the art can implement various embodiments of the present invention in a wide-variety of physical hardware configurations using an operating system and computer programming language of interest to the user.